

REMARKS

In the Decision on Appeal of February 21, 2007, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences introduced a new ground of rejection under Section 41.50(b). Independent claims 1 and 6 were rejected under Section 102(b) as anticipated by Kondo. Pursuant to Section 41.50(b)(1), the Applicants hereby submit the foregoing amendments and request that prosecution be reopened so that this matter can be reconsidered by the Examiner in light of the amendments. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to insert process steps and vending system aspects which are described in paragraphs [0060] through [0065]. The Applicants assert that the basis for these amendments is found in those paragraphs.


As described by the Board, Kondo describes an automatic vending machine which is able to serve different varieties of coffee or blended coffees at different concentrations which can contain cream and/or sugar as desired. The Applicants assert that the amendments to claims 1 and 6 overcome the anticipation rejection because the claims are now limited to cleaning products and because the claims recite the steps of choosing a cleaning product and customising the cleaning product from available options for the chosen cleaning product shown on the interface of the vending system. These elements are not described in Kondo.

Furthermore, the Applicants assert that the claims as amended are not obvious in view of Kondo. Kondo relates to coffee products which must be reconstituted. There is no option for producing a product which is not reconstituted. The present claims recite that reconstitution is an option and is not required. This is not suggested by Kondo, especially because the entire purpose of Kondo is to produce a reconstituted coffee product.

For the reasons discussed above, the Applicants assert that the rejection has been overcome by the claim amendments and respectfully requests an early notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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